

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-8 and 10-21 are pending. Claim 9 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Claims 1, 5, 10, 11, 15, 19, and 20 are amended, and claim 21 is added. Claims 1, 11, and 21 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 13, 14, 19, and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims;

In response, each of independent claims 1 and 11 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements not taught or suggest by the references cited by the Examiner, and independent claim 21 is added combining the allowable subject matter of claim 20 and claim 11.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 11, and 21 are in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Specification

Paragraphs [0045] and [0046] are amended merely to correct typographical errors. For example, paragraph [0046] is amended to describe “....the cushion arm 77 is arranged such that the front end (rather than the rear end) always springs upward such that a space C can be assured between the cushion arm 77 and the front fender 8...” See Fig. 4 for support. Paragraph [0046], as amended, no longer conflicts with paragraph [0045] which correctly discloses the rear end of the cushion arm 77 rotatably supported at the bottom bridge 73.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11, 12, and 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ito et al. (U.S. 2001/0022438). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a link-type suspension device in a vehicle, including, *inter alia*

upper ends of the rod members being rotatably connected to right and left sides of said cushion arm.

In addition, independent claim 11 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a link-type suspension device in a vehicle, including, *inter alia*

upper ends of the rod members being rotatably attached to opposite ends of a supporting axle which extends laterally through said cushion arm.

Support for the novel features set forth in claims 1 and 11 can be found in paragraph [0045], and can be seen in FIGS. 3, 5, and 9 (a) and (b).

As a result of the novel configuration of the present invention, each upper end of the push rod members rotatably attached to right and left sides of a single cushion arm without a rod hanger, and as there are no elements between right and left front forks above a front fender, running air toward the engine for cooling is not restricted.

In comparison with the above, as can be seen in Ito et al. FIG. 4, the Ito et al. document merely discloses a pair of cushion arms 12 extending vertically, and merely discloses a single push rod 14 attached to a lower end of each of the cushion arms 12. As such, Ito et al. fails to suggest either

upper ends of the rod members being rotatably connected to right and left sides of said cushion arm (as set forth in independent claim 1), or

upper ends of the rod members being rotatably attached to opposite ends of a supporting axle which extends laterally through said cushion arm (as set forth in independent claim 11).

Therefore independent claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 21 is in condition for allowance as noted above.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 5, 10, 15 and 20 are amended to correct informalities, and dependent claim 19 is amended to set forth additional novel features of the present invention.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are respectfully requested.

All claims of this application are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

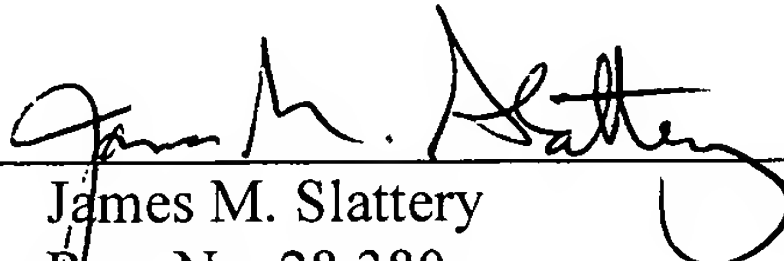
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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